

Marx Bros. Smash Hit "Day at the Races" Opens Loew's Toronto.

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 29, No. 13

TORONTO 2, CANADA

July 17th, 1937

TODAY'S BIG
NEWS IS M-G-M'S

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See the Picture and you'll
tell the world: M-G-M's
'TOPPER' is the TOPS!"*



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(next page)

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RAY LEWIS

Editor and Publisher

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"Easy to Digest"

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CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

**CANADIAN NATIONAL
TELEGRAM**

HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO, ONT.

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JULY 16TH, 1937.

PRESS ONTOCANADA

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

HERBERT WILCOX PRODUCTION FOR RKO VICTORIA GREAT WITH ANNA
NEAGLE UNQUESTIONABLY BEST BRITISH PICTURE EVER MADE STOP
SAW PAMELA STANLEY AS VICTORIA LONDON STAGE PLAY SAW HELEN
HAYES VICTORIA NEW YORK STAGE PRODUCTION MY OPINION ON ANNA
NEAGLE AS VICTORIA QUEENS THEM ALL STOP WILCOX DIRECTION
SUPERB STOP SCREEN VERSION HAS WORLD APPEAL LOVE STORY MAG-
NIFICENTLY PRODUCED STOP A NATURAL FOR ROAD SHOW CANADA UNITED
STATES STOP SUSTAINS INTEREST TO TECHNICOLOR FINALE VICTORIA
JUBILEE WHICH WILL MAKE AUDIENCE RISE TO FEET WITH CHEERS STOP
AT LAST ENGLAND GOES NATIVE MAKING A GREAT PICTURE OF HER OWN
PEOPLE AND HISTORY STOP CONGRATULATIONS STOP ANNA NEAGLE
COMING CANADA FOR CANADIAN PREMIERE STOP I AM FIRST JOURNALIST
LONDON TO SEE COMPLETE VICTORIA PRODUCTION STOP WILCOX SAILS
AMERICA NEXT WEDNESDAY CONFERRING WITH NED DEPINET RADIO CITY
MUSIC HALL OPENING

RAY LEWIS

RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

IN ONE of Jack Davis' Newsreel Theatres, called "Messeigneur", I saw the pictures of Their Majesties' first Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. I saw the cameras doing their work at Buckingham Palace on the day of Their Majesties' Garden Party to Overseas Visitors, etc. Some of the cameras were actually operating from the roof of the Palace.

I had the pleasure of an invitation to this Royal Garden Party, and enjoyed watching Royalty at so close and intimate a range.

It happened to be one of those unusual days in London, sunshine from morning to night. Everyone was dressed in their best, and among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Nathanson, who have just returned from their annual visit to the Continent. Both looked extremely well. Mr. Nathanson told me that he was sailing for Canada the first week in July. Mrs. Nathanson is to be presented at Court later on in the week.

THEIR MAJESTIES held an informal court in the gardens of Buckingham Palace. They sauntered over the grounds greeting other members of the Royal Family, and their guests.

I had the honor of being presented to His Majesty, and noted that King George VI was a much better-looking man than the Duke of Windsor.

The King has a good deal of amiability, and all the necessary democratic spirit which the Empire requires of its Sovereign.

Her Majesty smiles most easily, and appears a most kindly person. It was delightful to note the affectionate companionship which exists between the King and his Queen, and I could not help but think, how lucky the Empire was, that King George VI and Queen Elizabeth were such genuinely sincere rulers and were possessed of those sterling qualities which the British Monarchy requires.

Queen Mary looked, as she always does, queenly, and I noted that look of statesmanship which revealed itself behind her eyes.

THE little princesses appeared to be very interested in all the proceedings. They were dressed just as other little girls might have been dressed, in muslin frocks, socks and sandle-kid shoes, both alike. Princess Elizabeth fanned herself with her gloves, during the informal court procedure, while Margaret Rose wore her gloves, and looked intently at the ceremony.

Many members of the Royal Family were present, including the Princess Royal, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, Princess Victoria, Princess Marie Louise, all who appeared to have their own groups of followers.

You will see excellent pictures of Their Majesties, and the other members of the Royal Family, including pictures of many celebrities, in the newsreels.

IHAD a talk with the Marquess and Marchioness of Willingdon. The Marquess said, that he would like to be in Canada again, and when I said, "Would you, really", the Marchioness smilingly added, "We would like to return to all the Dominions in which we have been resident". And yet, they say women talk too much.

I suggested to the Marquess, that if he came to Canada now, he would be in time for the Fall Meet at Woodbine, to which he said, "O, don't mention the Woodbine, it has been a failure for me". "Not good at picking winning horses?" said I. "No good at all," replied the Marquess; and then I won a real laugh and a hearty handshake when I said, "But you are very successful at selecting Dominions, Lord Willingdon."

Another guest, who had been in Canada as representative of His Majesty, the late King George V, was Lord Bessborough, the latter who was present with Lady Bessborough.

Still another very distinguished guest was Earl Baldwin and Lady Baldwin, with whom I chatted. Earl Baldwin informed me, that the story concerning his contemplated Empire-wide tour, was a bit premature. "I understand you are going on an Empire-wide tour," said I to Earl Baldwin. "You don't understand anything of the kind," said Earl Baldwin. "O," said I, in my best Buckingham Palace manners, "what I meant to say was that I had read it in the papers." "You must not believe anything you read in the papers," added Lady Baldwin. To which, being a publisher, I cordially agreed!

EARL BALDWIN then informed me, that there was nothing definitely fixed about the discussed Empire trip, what he WAS planning to do was to see England. "You know," said Earl Baldwin, "London is not England, and I have not seen England for the past ten years."

(Continued on Page 5)

RKO's "Super Sleuth" Starring Jack Oakie, Hailed as Grand Comedy.

RAY PRESENTS

(Continued from Page 4)

And still another world-famous personality was General Evangeline Booth, with whom I talked. General Booth told me, that Canada was so pleased that she had brought the Canadian-born General MacMillan from Canada, to work with her at London. "We are much worried at the present time, much distressed, pray for us, for we need all our friends, those who believe in us, to work with us, and to pray for us now."

I found General Booth a woman of powerful personality, vigorous, forceful, and with a keen sense of humor. I told her that I was a Canadian, and that Joshua was an Englishman, that he had followed me from England to Canada. My modesty prevents me from repeating General Booth's pretty compliment. Was I flattered? I'm telling you.

I hope you won't mind this gossip, but apropos of nothing, I have a good story for you. It appears that the two little princesses were looking around the Abbey for Uncle David during the Coronation Ceremony. Princess Margaret was asking Princess Elizabeth why Uncle David was not there, for she could not find him. To which query Princess Elizabeth replied, "Uncle David is not here, because he wanted to marry Mrs. Baldwin, and Mr. Baldwin wouldn't let him."

By the way, I met Mr. Ernest Fredman, who has a whole-floor office for Daily Film Renter, in the new office-building of General Film Distributors. I told Mr. Fredman that Joshua and I had been presented to His Majesty, and that the presentation should even up about ten luncheons he had with notables.

He was on his way to Carlsbad, no relationship to his luncheons, so he says, but his doctor always cuts down on his diet when he arrives there; he admitted this. However, he looked better than ever, which should make his many friends happy.



UNIVERSAL ANSWERS PRO-HITLER CHARGE

THE DIGEST received, this week, a wire from Mr. R. H. Cochrane, President of Universal Pictures. We are publishing this wire in full for the benefit of exhibitors who may have heard or read the story to which Mr. Cochrane refers in his message. May we suggest to exhibitors that when they are showing "The Road Back" at their theatre, they publicise this wire, in order that the public may know the truth of the matter.

"MISS RAY LEWIS

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

A RECENTLY PUBLISHED STORY TO THE EFFECT THAT OUR COMPANY CHANGED THE ENDING OF QUOTE THE ROAD BACK UNQUOTE FOR THE PURPOSE OF QUOTE GLORIFYING HITLER UNQUOTE IS A COMPLETE FALSEHOOD FROM START TO FINISH STOP NOTHING BUT MALICE COULD HAVE CREATED IT STOP I AM IN RECEIPT OF A CABLEGRAM FROM MR J CHEEVER COWDIN CHAIRMAN OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS WHO IS NOW IN EUROPE WITH OUR FOREIGN SALES MANAGER MR GUSTAV SCHAEFER IN WHICH HE SAYS QUOTE NEITHER SCHAEFER NOR I EVER MET DR GOEBBELS IN THE FIRST PLACE AND IN THE SECOND PLACE WE HAVE NEVER DISCUSSED THE ROAD BACK WITH ANY OFFICIAL IN GERMANY AT ANY TIME STOP BOTH OF US HOPE YOU WILL USE THIS DENIAL AS EMPHATICALLY AS YOU CAN UNQUOTE THE SIMPLE TRUTH IS THAT AFTER SHOWING THE PICTURE TO THE PUBLIC WE DECIDED TO ADD SEVERAL ROMANTIC SCENES STOP THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN BOTH VERSIONS SAY THE NEW ONE IS IMMEASURABLY BETTER STOP POLITICS AND FEAR HAD NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH IT

R H COCHRANE

PRESIDENT UNIVERSAL PICTURES"

* * *

CONKLIN IN WINNIPEG

ANSWERING the question of an enquiring correspondent, Melvyn Douglas is not a Canadian. He was born in Macon, Georgia, but went to school for a time in Toronto. He is married to Helen Gahagan and has been six years in pictures, in which time he has appeared with Irene Dunne, Claudette Colbert, Greta Garbo and Gloria Swanson.

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WASHINGTON FILM DIGEST

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 13—(CTP)

WITH the summer doldrums well upon the worthy representatives up on Capitol Hill, many of whom have noted for at least a recess if not complete adjournment, activity along the front line trenches of the Motion Picture Industry is practically at a standstill. The reason is simple. All pending legislation concerning the film industry represent for the most part "fight" bills and as one film-minded Congressman told this correspondent, "It's too hot to fight".

On the Senate side copyright legislation has been effectively stalemated by the Supreme Court question, and according to a spokesman at Senator Duffy's office the controversial bill which would deprive the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers of the \$250 damage fee clause is pretty conclusively on the shelf for this session. There may, it was pointed out, be some hearings but there is nothing definite. Copyright on the House side is definitely dead. Representative Sirovich, Chairman of the important House Patent Committee, is at this moment basking in the French Riviera while his colleagues on the committee await hopefully for either adjournment or recess.

Congressman Sam Pettengill's block-booking bill is another pending motion picture measure which is definitely out this session. This was, of course, to be expected, since it was indicated early in the session that there would probably be no action. There was some talk a while back of turning the entire block-booking matter over to the Federal Trade Commission, but the suggestion simply died a natural death.

Congressman Sam Hobbs of Alabama, alone seems hopeful. He is hard at work upon the House Rules Committee to take some action concerning his measure to investigate the monopolistic practice of the entire industry. He still hopes to get action, but the Rules Committee remains adamant and merely reports "no hearings scheduled".

Consequently, while all those interested in motion picture legislation up on Capitol Hill optimistically report action "next session" the fact still remains that an entire session has gone by without one iota of definite legislative action concerning the industry.

* * *

MEANWHILE Mr. Nathan D. Golden, newly named chief of the recently created Motion Picture Division of the United States Department of Commerce, is busily engaged in making plans which bid fair to make the new division a really valuable aid to the industry insofar as foreign markets for their products is concerned.

Mr. Golden has not as yet disclosed his complete plans, but his many years of experience with the industry as well as his keen personal knowledge of its demands present a perfect foundation upon which to build a new

division. Golden is well liked by the industry, so here at least is one phase of the Washington Motion picture set-up which appears to be going places.

* * *

AMERICAN Consul Damon C. Woods, at Toronto, Canada, reports to the United States Department of Commerce that the Ontario Board of Censors of Motion Pictures, in its annual report found that its task had been made easier by the improved morality standards of the producers, it was announced according to a recent despatch to the Department of Commerce.

Of the 2,107 pictures submitted to it during the year, the report states, 83.3 per cent were approved without alteration, compared with percentages of 80.7 in 1935-6 and 60.6 in 1934-5. The board found, to its regret, that "a much greater number of deletions had to be made in British films than in those from other countries."

Cuts were made in 31 of the 126 British films submitted. This was a percentage of 24.4 compared with 17.5 of all submitted requiring alteration. The board suggested that this was due to the greater experience of American producers. It was also noted that the best "British" films are made in America. British-made films submitted numbered 127 or less than 10 per cent of the total, but most of them were features.

* * *

DISPOSITION in May by John D. Hertz, New York, Paramount director, through Lehman Brothers, of 6,000 shares of Paramount common and 2,500 shares of second preferred stock and 55,000 3¼ per cent convertible debentures has been revealed by the Securities and Exchange Commission in its semi-monthly summary of the transactions of officers, directors and principal stockholders in the securities of their corporations.

The report showed that at the close of the month, Hertz through Lehman Brothers, still held 5,500 shares of second preferred stock and 32,000 debentures.

The Paramount return also disclosed that Maurice Newton, New York, another director through Hall Gatten and Co. disposed of 200 shares of common stock and, directly of 400 shares of common and acquired 400 shares of second preferred. At the close of the month, Newton held 8,118 shares of common, 2,813 shares of second preferred, directly, and 200 shares of first preferred and 97,000 debentures through Hallgatten.

* * *

MOTION picture folks, music lovers, and many of his friends up on Capitol Hill, were saddened this week by the report from Hollywood of the sudden death of George Gershwin. Movie goers for the past decade have listened to his melodies either as theme songs to pictures or as background compositions. Having struck a new note in contemporary modern music, George Gershwin, whom it was this correspondent's pleasure to have known, will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved him.

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20th Century-Fox To Make Six Big Features in England.

BRITISH FILM DIGEST

(Special to The Digest from Ward Shaftesbury,
London Correspondent)

LORD TYRRELL of Avon, President of the British Board of Film Censors, gave a very interesting address last week. It was interesting because it was *novel* — and it was novel because it was about that most mysterious of the arts, Film Censorship. The stupendous nature of the task confronting the British Films Censors must have disillusioned those who had enviously envisioned the role of Film Censor as a nice easy pleasant synecure. Obviously there is nothing leisurely about the job of viewing over six and a half million feet of film, as the Board did last year, comprising 2,416 subjects. And the work does not end at the mere viewing — every film has to be most carefully considered and in the case of those passed in the "A" category, a report or synopsis on each film coming within this classification has to be prepared for purposes of reference.

In the past year, 2,000 subjects were passed with the "U" certificate, 414 with the "A" certificate and two films were notified as "Horrific". From these figures it will be seen that "U" films constituted a large proportion of the whole, over 82% to be exact.

It has been a prevalent opinion in some quarters of the Trade that films must not be too good in quality — if they are they will lack box-office. Lord Tyrrell strenuously disagrees with this view: "... good films nowadays are appreciated by all sorts and conditions of men and women. Films based on the classics, great works of literature, and the drama, are produced today with the assured knowledge that they will meet with success. In many cases it is not too much to say that screen dramatizations have been greater successes than the successful stage plays they reproduced."

Last year the Board had the most trouble with "Green Pastures". It was quite obvious that whatever decision was made would be unsatisfactory from one point of view or another — if it was passed it would be wrong, if it was banned, it would still be wrong. Lord Tyrrell, after viewing the picture, decided that the subject matter and the treatment were not blasphemous — he considered it as an allegory, treated most reverently and with an apparent desire on the part of the producer to express the childlike naivete of the negro in respect to the Christian faith. However, Lord Tyrrell's position was rather ticklish — as a play, "Green Pastures" had been banned some years previously by the Lord Chamberlain, so rather than pass the film without discussion, he called in some of the leading ecclesiastical authorities who viewed the film for themselves. They agreed with Lord Tyrrell that the picture was imbued with simplicity and reverence. As a result, the film was certificated with certain amendments. Immediately the decision became known, people who had not seen the film wrote innumerable and often vitriolic letters to the board censuring the passing of the picture. It is noteworthy, however, that the reaction of the public to "Green Pastures" has been unanimously favourable.

The policy of the Board in regard to animal pictures is characteristic. It does not allow, and never has allowed, incidents in films showing cruelty to animals, or restraint amounting to cruelty. This is interesting in view of the Bill which is at present before Parliament which if passed is to be known as the Cinematograph Film (Animal) Act

which would preclude the showing of any film containing even one incident involving cruelty.

In the past year the Examiners took exception to 391 films. In the vast majority of cases, the incidents to which exception was taken were not of a very serious character — for the most part objectionable words or phrases. There were however eight total rejections — the subject and treatment of these films made them wholly unsuitable for public exhibition. It is noteworthy, I believe, that the Censor's reports in the past years have continuously shown a much smaller proportion of rejections and objections. Obviously, the film producers are coming more and more to an understanding of the proprieties in this respect. It is a good sign.

One important part of the Board's work which cannot be very well overlooked is that which has to do with the reading of books, plays, treatments and scenarios. It is the custom of the Board that each story submitted to it should be carefully read and considered and a short synopsis retained for future reference together with a copy of the observations submitted by the Censors to the producers.

One very interesting and, I think, notable feature of the Board's work is the close communication in which it keeps constantly with Hollywood and Will Hays. Last year, one American producer submitted to the board 18 scenarios — the whole of their output for the coming season — they considered it of such importance that they sent one of their representatives over from Hollywood to discuss the subjects with us. Such a method of procedure saved the American company thousands of dollars in film production.

Film Censorship, which was first considered a nuisance, has become a boon to the Industry!

GRAND NATIONAL DEAL

I WAS interested to learn that a reciprocity deal under which British films released in England by Associated British Film Distributors will be handled in America by Grand National, has been completed. The deal calls for, in the first place, the distribution of five British pictures with an advance guarantee of \$100,000 payable in cash. The pictures concerned are "High Command" starring Lionel Atwill; "Secret Lives", with Neil Hamilton; "Brief Ecstasy", with Paul Lukas; "Make Up", featuring Nils Asther and June Clyde, and "Cafe Colette", starring Paul Cavanagh.

NEW THEATRES FOR M-G-M

I HEAR that Metro is enlarging its theatre chain. Four important new buildings are being added to its group overseas. A new 2,000 seater will open soon in Durban; work has just started on a large Bombay house; a new super cinema has been planned for San Paulo, Brazil; and November will see the opening of a 1,700 seater in Brisbane, Australia.

Walter Vincent Elected President of Republic Pictures.